

**LIMITATION OF WOMEN'S RIGHT REFLECTED IN CARMEN BIN
LADIN'S *INSIDE THE KINGDOM* (2004):
A FEMINIST APPROACH**



RESEARCH PAPER

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By

**ESTI MUNJARIYAH
A320060095**

**SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA**

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Every person has his or her right to be free from fear, free to decide what he or she wants and everything that he or she has decided that is not inverted by another man who has stronger power. All human beings, actually, have the same right, but, every human being does not have right to disturb other human's right.

Today, the phenomena of gender inequality still appear. There are still many problems of life which relate to the issues of gender. Gender is the word from Latin *genus* means kind, type, or sort. The society was identified the type of gender into men and women. The differences toward gender between men and women are not only biologically but also social behavior which are attributed and formed by the tradition or culture of the society.

In fact, the phenomena of gender inequality that is formed by the custom posited women in the second position. Extremely, in the patriarchal system the gender identity is completely injustice. Men “appropriate all superior social roles and keep women in subordinate and exploited” (Mandell, 2003: 14). The men are socialized into competitiveness, rationality and independence that are appropriate in public sphere. Here, men handle economic and social aspect. Whereas, women are identified relational,

contextual, integrative that is appropriate in domestic sphere. (Mandell, 1995: 12)

Further, gender injustice happens in society in which men have the higher authority toward women both in public and domestic spheres. Most of presidents in the world are men. Besides, most of the head of family, not only in patriarchal but also in capital country, are men. Women have a bit chance to explore their existence.

However, along with the women experiences, they believe that stereotype culture presenting gender injustice toward women. Women believe that most of their activities are under and controlled by men. It is caused by the economical and patriarchal custom that is dominant in society. Hence, women should explore their potency in public sphere to reach independent both economically and socially. Therefore, gender injustice can be lost. Based on the feminism concept, the real gender injustice toward women is caused by the economical and patriarchal system.

On the other hand, women tend to be wives who are suitable to care children and keep house work, besides, serving their husband need. (Mandell, 1995: 12) Generally, most of tradition in the world put women in the second position. They are considered as the people who should do the domestic sphere such as cleaning their house and taking care of their children. This tradition has existed and dominant in society.

These phenomena can be seen in a novel of Carmen bin Ladin, *Inside The Kingdom*. It is a best seller novel written by Carmen bin Ladin in 2004.

She is Osama bin Laden's sister-in-law. Carmen Married in 1974 to Osama Bin Laden's older brother, Yeslam. She spent nine years futilely attempting to adjust to both the conservative, tight-knit Bin Laden clan and the repressive Saudi culture she was naively unprepared to face.

Half-Swiss and half-Persian, Carmen were raised in relative freedom in Europe. Carried away by romantic notions of love and loyalty, she initially struggled to bridge the gap between her background as an independent Western woman and Middle Eastern expectations of female submission and subservience. Life among the huge Bin Laden clan was especially treacherous since they claimed married complex ties to the Saudi royal family.

She also writes other novels, such as *Veiled Kingdom*. It was published in 2004 and it is held by 48 libraries worldwide. *Le Voile Dechire* was published in 2004. *Inside the Kingdom* may be the best seller of her novels. It tells about her effort to get her freedom of her life.

On September 11, 2001, Carmen Bin Ladin heard the news that the Twin Towers had been struck. She knew that her brother-in-law was involved in these horrifying acts of terrorism, and her heart went out to America. She also knew that her life and the lives of her daughters would never be the same again.

In 1974 Carmen married into the Bin Laden family. She was young and in love, an independent European woman about to join a complex clan and a culture she neither knew nor understood. In Saudi Arabia, she was forbidden to leave her home without the head-to-toe black *abaya* that

completely covered her. Her face could never be seen by a man outside the family. And according to Saudi law, her husband could divorce her at will, without any kind of court procedure, and take her children away from her forever.

Carmen was an outsider among the Bin Laden wives, their closets full of haute couture dresses, their rights so restricted that they could not go outside their homes - not even to cross the street - without a chaperone. The author takes us inside the hearts and minds of these women - always at the mercy of the husbands who totally control their lives, and always convinced that their religion and culture are superior to any other. And as Carmen tells of her struggle to save her marriage and raise her daughters to be freethinking young women, she describes this family's ties to the Saudi royal family and introduces us to the ever loyal Bin Laden brothers; including one particular brother-in-law she was to encounter - Osama.

In 1988, in Switzerland, Carmen Bin Ladin separated from her husband and began one of her toughest battles: to gain the custody of her three daughters. Now, with her candid memoir, she dares to pull off the veils that conceal one of the most powerful, secretive, and repressive countries in the world - and the Bin Laden family's role within it. Inside the Kingdom are shocking, impossible to put down, and a must-read for anyone who wishes to understand the events of today's world.

The writer is interested to analyze this novel. The first reason is because this novel was written based on the true story from the author,

Carmen bin Ladin. It is not a fiction novel. It makes the writer more interested to read it. When reading this novel, the writer imagined the stories which are told. Then the writer thought, "I'm lucky to live in a better situation."

The second reason is because this novel includes many aspects of life. There are several aspects which are told in this novel. This novel tells about religion, love, family, society and especially, it tells about the women's problems of life. *Inside The kingdom* is full of theme and it makes this novel be the one of the best seller book.

The third reason is the writer gets much knowledge from this novel. It improves the writer's knowledge of Saudi Arabia. The writer is eager to know about these. Saudi Arabia is a country which has strict roles in their societies. There are many tight and conservative traditions and cultures in this country. This novel gives the writer more knowledge of Saudi Arabia's culture and tradition by telling these in detail. It tells all aspects of the country from the point of view of Carmen Bin Ladin.

The last reason is the writer gets inspirations. The writer realizes that women and men have the same abilities and rights. There is no reason to say that women are lower than men. The real example of this statement is reflected in this novel. How Carmen survives to live in a conservative world, and finally she can get what she wants, freedom. Carmen's effort to get her freedom is a reflection of women's struggle which is interesting to analyze. The above background attracts the writer to analyze the novel within the feminism perspective frame work.

So the writer constructs the title **LIMITATION OF WOMEN'S RIGHT REFLECTED IN CARMEN BIN LADIN'S *INSIDE THE KINGDOM*(2004): A FEMINIST APPROACH**

B. Literature Review

Inside The Kingdom is an interesting novel. This novel is one of best seller books which were published in 2004. The research of this novel is not a new thing. The writer found a researcher who analyzed this novel before. But the writer just found one researcher because this novel is rather new.

There is Henry Arini (2008), in her research entitled "Gender inequality in Carmen Bin Ladin's *Inside The Kingdom*; Feminist Approach." This study aimed to analyze gender inequalities principles in Carmen bin Ladin's *Inside the Kingdom* viewed from a feminist approach. Based on the analysis, the writer draws some conclusions as follow: first, Carmen faced two cultures, West culture and the East culture. West is by America and East by Saudi Arabia. Carmen showed in Saudi Arabia that women as an object that must against patriarchal culture to get equalities in position, role right, and participation that is reflected in her character. Second, in this novel the major character is also as the narrator because this novel is autobiography types of novel.

From the literature review above, the present research is different from the previous study. This research focuses on "Limitation of women's right reflected in Carmen Bin Ladin's *Inside The Kingdom* (2004): A Feminist Approach

C. Problem Statement

Based on the background of choosing the subject above, the problem which the writer purposes is “How is the limitation of women’s right being reflected in this novel?”

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer focuses this research in analyzing the limitation of women’s right in *Inside The Kingdom* novel based on feminist approach.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the research are as follows:

1. To analyze Carmen Bin Ladin’s *Inside The Kingdom* novel based on the structural elements of the novel.
2. To describe the limitation of women’s right in Carmen Bin Ladin’s *Inside The Kingdom* based on the feminist approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefit expected, from this research are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study will be beneficial for contributing to the large body of knowledge, particularly literary studies on Carmen Bin Ladin’s *Inside The Kingdom*

2. Practical Benefit

This study can develop the writer’s ability in applying the feminist perspective in Carmen bin Ladin’s *Inside The Kingdom*

G. Research Method

1. Types of the Study

In analyzing Carmen Bin Ladin's *Inside The Kingdom*, the writer uses descriptive qualitative method. It aims to analyze the novel using feminist approach. The steps of conducting this research are (1) determining the type of the study, (2) determining the object of the study, (3) determining data and data source, (4) determining technique of data collection, and (5) determining technique of data analysis.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is the novel of Carmen Bin Ladin's *Inside The Kingdom* consists of 206 pages published in United state of America by Warner Books copyright in 2004. It is analyzed by using feminist approach.

3. Types of data and the data source

The type of data in this study is a text that consists of words, phrases and sentence. In this research, the writer uses two data sources; there are primary data and secondary data source.

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source is the novel itself, *Inside The Kingdom* by Carmen Bin Ladin.

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data sources are taken from other source, which are related to the primary data, such as some biography of the author, the website from internet and other relevant information.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The method used in this study is library research which is conducted by collecting and recording both of the primary and secondary data. Some steps of collecting data applied in this study are follows:

- a. Reading the novel repeatedly until the writer gets adequate information
- b. Identifying the topic of the novel
- c. Determining the character that will be analyzed.
- d. Reading some related books to find out the theory, data and information required
- e. Making notes of the important in both primary and secondary data.
- f. Classifying the data into some categories
- g. Arranging and developing the selected data into a good unity towards the topic of the study

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique of data analysis used in this study is descriptive qualitative analysis the structural element of the novel and the collected data will be described and analyzed in detail through feminist approach.

H. Research Paper Organization

This research consists of five chapters. Chapter I is Introduction, which consists of Background of the Study, Literature Review, Problem Statement, Limitation of the Study, Objectives of the Study, Benefits of the Study, Research Method, and Paper Organization. Chapter II comprises of the Underlying Theory, which presents notion of Feminist Approach, Structural Elements of the Novel and Theoretical Application. Chapter III is social historical of Saudi Arabia in the late twentieth century which covers social aspect, political aspect, economic aspect, science and technology, cultural aspect, and religious aspect. Chapter IV is Structural analysis of the novel, which involves the Structural Elements of Character and Characterization, Plot, Setting, Point of View, Style, Theme and Discussion. Chapter V is Feminist Analysis of *Inside The Kingdom* novel. The data is Chapter VI which contain of Conclusion and Suggestion.

